

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-03 SS-20

NSC-10 NSCE-00 /081 R

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ARA/CAR: GBHIGH/MR. WHEELER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN TD

SUBJ: CIVAIR - RESTRICTIONS ON EASTERNS OPERATIONS TO
TRINIDAD

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 1671, 1675

1. FAILURE OF GOTT TO ABIDE BY TERMS OF AIR TRANSPORT
AGREEMENT IN FORCE BETWEEN USG AND GOTT BY UNILATERALLY
RESTRICTING OPERATIONS OF EASTERN AIRLINES IS A MATTER
OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US. INHERENT IN THE AGREEMENT BE-
TWEEN THE U.S. AND THE UK, WHICH TRINIDAD HAS ACCEPTED,
IS THE RIGHT OF A DESIGNATED CARRIER SUCH AS EASTERN TO
DECIDE THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS IT WILL OPERATE ON AGREED
ROUTES, SUBJECT TO EX POST FACTO REVIEW TO ASURE CON-
FORMITY TO THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT (A) AIRLINES SHALL
HAVE FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE; (B) AIRLINES
OF ONE COUNTRY DO NOT OPERATE SO AS TO AFFECT UNDULY THE
OPERATIONS OF THE AIRLINES OF THE OTHER COUNTRY; (C) SER-
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VICES OFFERED BEAR A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC

REQUIREMENT; AND (D) PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IS TO CARRY TRAF-
FIC BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOTT IT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
BRING THESE CONCERNS TO ATTENTION OF MINISTRY EXTERNAL
RELATIONS, NOTING THAT SHOULD THE GOTT UNILATERALLY IMPOSE
RESTRICTIONS IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A VIOLATION OF THE
AGREEMENT AND CONSEQUENTLY THE USG WOULD UNDER NORMAL
CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CALL FOR
CONSULTATIONS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.SUCH CONSULTA-
TIONS WOULD BE LIKELY TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE
EXISTING AGREEMENT, INCLUDING RIGHTS BWIA ENJOYS. WE
ASSUME THE GOTT WOULD FIND IT IN ITS GREATER INTEREST TO
ADHERE TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF
THE FACT THAT EASTERN, FOR INTERNAL REASONS, HAS DECIDED
TO CUT BACK SERVICE AS OF JANUARY 7, 1974.

3. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES INVOLVED (A
UNILATERAL ACTION), AS WELL AS SERIOUS INCONVENIENCE THAT
WILL BE FORCED UPON PASSENGERS WITH VALID RESERVATIONS
FOR EASTER FLIGHTS PRIOR TO JANUARY 7, EMBASSY SHOULD
AGAIN STRONGLY URGE GOTT TO RESCIND ITS ORDER FOR
DECEMBER 28 TERMINATION OF SECOND FREQUENCY. THIS WOULD
REMOVE ANY QUESTION OF NON-ADHERENCE TO AGREEMENT AND
ULTIMATE RESULT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH GOTT OBJECTIVES.

4. FOREGOING SHOULD BE PRESENTED ORALLY, NOT AS FORMAL
DEMARCH. KISSINGER

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